

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MINUTES
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 10, 2015**

The August meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Douglas Fisher at 9:40 a.m. at the Health and Agriculture Building, Trenton, New Jersey. Mr. Minch stated that the Open Public Meetings Act requirements have been met. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. adequate notice of this meeting was provided by giving the time, date, and location and to the extent known the agenda of this meeting. At least 48 hours in advance this notice has been posted on the third floor bulletin board, Health and Agriculture Building in Trenton; mailed to The Star Ledger, the Courier Post and filed with the Office of Secretary of State.

The Flag Salute was recited.

Call of the Membership Roll indicated the following:

Members Present Associate Members and Others

Douglas Fisher

Sylvia Kovacs

John Kocubinski

Charlie Buscaglia

Dr. Stephanie Murphy (rep. R. Goodman)

Ray Cywinski

Carrie Mosley

Tony DiLodovico

Brian McLendon (rep. R. Martin)

Michael Rigolizzo

Sean Moriarity, Deputy Attorney General

Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

Rich Belcher, SSSC, NJDA

Dr. Ferdows Ali, SSSC, NJDA

Frank Wu, NJDA

Dave Reilly, C/A SCD

Dan Galletta, C/A SCD

Dennis Dougherty, Camden SCD

Jay Kandle, Gloucester SCD

Bob Reitmeyer, Burlington SCD

Christine Raabe, Ocean SCD

E. George-Cheniara, NJBA

Jeromie Lange, Maser Consulting

Desiree Dunn, NJACD

Paul Hlubik, FSA

MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2015 MEETING

On motion by Mr. Kocubinski, second by Mr. Cywinski, the minutes of the June 8, 2015 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Secretary Fisher reported on the following:

1. NJ State Senator Smith has contacted the NJDA regarding the status of Soil Restoration Standards.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Minch reported on the following:

1. **Correspondence-** A letter was received from NJ State Senator Oroho, Assemblywoman McHose and Assemblyman Space regarding fees charged by Morris, Sussex and Warren SCDs. Several small scale builders perceive these fees as excessive. Staff created a spreadsheet which covers hours and rates charged for SFH inspections. A response to the legislator's correspondence is being prepared.
Correspondence was also received from the Ocean SCD regarding a violation by Jackson Township. Mr. D'Lodovico indicated that an appeal meeting has been scheduled for next week.
2. **Division Staffing-** Frank Wu was introduced as the new Agriculture Resource Specialist replacing Dave Clapp who accepted a position w SADC. Mr. Wu will be working out of the Frenchtown Service Center and will be providing assistance on animal waste issues and trouble-shooting conservation issues. Previously, Mr. Wu worked for 6.5 years as a CAP employee out of the Columbus Service Center.

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT

1. **Freehold Fee Schedule Modification-** The Freehold District has proposed a fee schedule modification to lower fees on small projects that fall under the SFH category. Mr. Minch indicated that additional information is necessary to evaluate the request. The Freehold SCD is in the process of compiling that information. A detailed and comprehensive discussion was held regarding 251 fees.
2. **H & H Database-** Rutgers is working on a new database system. Once Rutgers completes this task the districts will migrate to the new program. Rutgers will maintain the older version of the database.
3. **Engineering Report-** In Mr. Showler's absence, Mr. Minch reported on Mr. Showler's activities for the month of July which included an update of the Detention Basin Database Project, Stream Gaging Training (Freehold SCD) and an erosion control issue at Philipsburg High (Warren) construction site. A rather lengthy discussion was held regarding this issue.
4. **Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Statistics-** 4th quarter FY 2015- April to June
A total of 1,367 applications were reviewed. 1,340 certifications were issued. A total of \$2,239,510 in fees were collected. 14,417 inspections were performed covering 23,946 staff hours.
5. **3rd Party Appeals-** Mr. Minch is in the process of writing an Administrative Bulletin (which will then be reviewed by Mr. Moriarity) that will standardize the approach to 3rd party appeals.

6. New Jersey Conservation District Sub-Committee Reports

- **Training-** Mr. Galletta reported that a training sub-committee meeting is scheduled for September 17th at the Burlington SCD.
- **Policies & Procedures-** Mr. Minch reported that the comments received on the 251 manual appendices are being reviewed. Work is being done on the Administrative Standards which should be in draft form shortly.
- **Fee/Fiscal-** On motion by Ms. Kovacs, second by Dr. Murphy, the Financial Accounting Manual was adopted.
- **Review/Appraisal-** Mr. DiLodovico reported that the review checklist portion of the manual is in draft form but several loose ends remain. It is hoped that these items will be completed by the next SSCC meeting.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Belcher reported that the MATES (Marine Academy of Technology and Science) Envirothon team placed 6th out of 51 teams at the NCF Envirothon.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Ms. Mosely updated the Committee regarding NRCS programs and activities. Lengthy discussions were held regarding districts certifying conservation plans, Flood Hazard Rules and fees associated with implementing conservation plans.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)

Mr. Hlubik provided an update on FSA programs and activities.

NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. McLendon provided an update on the activities of the department and indicated he has taken on additional responsibilities within the Division of Water Quality and in the near future another individual may be assigned to attend SSCC meetings.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Murphy provided an update regarding various programs, personnel and meetings involving the University and co-operative Extension.

Dr. Murphy also conducted a power point presentation regarding the latest S & W Society meeting.

NJ ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Cywinski reported on the activities of the NJACD including the following:

- Mr. Cywinski thanked NRCS for additional funding they provided for the NJ Envirothon.
- The annual Conservation Conference will be held on October 27th at the Eco-Complex.
- The North East NACD meeting was held in West Virginia. NJ is host district in August 2016 and the NJACD has selected Seaview, Atlantic County as the conference location. Conference planning meetings will be scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Reilly indicated that the Plant Materials Center in Cape May County will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

On motion by Mr. Buscaglia, second by Mr. DiLodovico, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM. All actions were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.

The next SSCC meeting will be held October 19, 2015 in Trenton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Minch

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